

Community Outreach Subcommittee of the Northampton Policing Review Commission

MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday December 30, 2020
7:30-9pm

Remote Meeting

Join the Remote Meeting:

Video conference:

<https://zoom.us/j/97720141664?pwd=ckN0OFZYS2lUVjE3dkRmbEJWbGdNQQT09>

Meeting ID: 977 2014 1664

Passcode: 057619

Or by telephone, call: +1 929 436 2866 US

1. Call to Order
 - Announcement of Zoom Recording
 - Roll Call
2. Accepting the charge
3. Election of chair
4. Discussion of charge topics
5. Adjourn

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido at 7:41pm

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido made an announcement that this meeting is being recorded for the public record and would be available on Northampton Open Media, as well as, the City of Northampton website.

ROLL CALL:

Javier Luengo-Garrido Present

Daniel Cannity Present

Carol Owens

2. Accepting the Charge

Commissioner Dan Cannity read the Charge of the subcommittee as: coordinating speakers to the commission and subcommittees from different local organizations, to help build connections with different groups and organizations who serve marginalized communities, to work with these groups to coordinate collecting statements from people who do not have access to the means to weigh in in public comment periods, to work to find ways to safely collect statements from individuals who require some degree of anonymity out of fear of reprisal, prior, victimization or abuse, and to develop recommendations to make meetings and the ultimate report more accessible in terms of language, disability, and understanding.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido accepted the charge. The charge was accepted unanimously.

3. Election of Chair

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido volunteered to chair the subcommittee.

4. Discussion of Charge Topics

Commissioner Dan Cannity said he reached out to Rachel Bromberg from the Reach out Response and a few other speakers. He suggested coordinating with the subcommittees to find out what speakers they're interested in having speak.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido wondered whether this includes reaching out to city departments. He said he'll be leaning on Commissioner Carol Owens to help come up with a qualitative process in order to gather testimony in different formats.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido invited the public to speak during the meeting to share their thoughts.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido wondered whether the committee will be working to bring the testimonies collected to the full commission or whether they're working towards the second big public meeting.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said it might be a bit of both, and will include shaping the process

Commissioner Carol Owen said when she's done studies in the past, she's often paid people and that there's always an issue around how much you should pay. She wondered whether the committee would like to look at this.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said if people of color are coming to the committee and are not only professionals, but have lived experience because of their race, that the committee should not expect pro bono. He said it's a complicated issue because of optics. He said for example if they collect fifty well documented testimonies and they have a tendency to one side, and they were compensated for their time, it can be misconstrued. He said the other issue is that if any kind of compensation would have to be approved by the City Council President and the Mayor as well as the City Solicitor.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said the city doesn't have a mechanism to pay speakers and doesn't have a reimbursement mechanism. Would have to come from outside organizations.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said it may be worse that the city doesn't have a system. He said, in this case, either they've had experts who are upper middle class rich and white, so the issue has never been there and this is the first time we're talking about it, we get back to the privilege conversation. The fact that they haven't suggested another option is a problem.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said he's getting better at framing the question, asking for the response, assuming the response is a negative, and then asking what the solutions are.

Commissioner Carol Owens said there will be so many interesting process issues the commission will notice along the way that are unintentionally inhibiting people without power or voice from being in the narrative. She said she wonders if the commission could have an addendum piece at the end of the study where it addresses the structural piece in the study.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said he would like to do that addendum work with Commissioner Carol.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said this is similar to when we needed translation services. He said Hopefully this work leads to fast tracking some of those processes in the future

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said adding this in the addendum or in a brief report separately, including issues the commission has run into would be important. He wondered how to present voices to the commission and whether the committee would want to present the testimonies during public comment.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said nothing requires the commission to show the identity of those who speak. He mentioned the NPD has a lawsuit that's current (reprisal) because of someone recording with phone. He said the committee will need to talk about what level of anonymity the committee will create for people. He said the shared drive is managed by Noa Coffey-Moore (Admin assistant) and said the goal is to have that as a publicly available resource.

The commissioners discuss the format of how the recordings will be shared.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said it's important to create guidelines and questions for the testimonies. He suggested creating a foundation document one pager to use for testimonies

Commissioner Dan Cannity said he resists posing a question to get comment. He said, when you start asking questions, the question informs the answer.

Commissioner Carol Owens said she agrees with Commissioner Dan Cannity. She said in the past she's told people what she's curious about, what she's wanting to hear in terms of their lived experience and that it's open ended. She said it's important to give parameters as protection for people who offer testimonies, and telling them they don't have to share more than they feel comfortable under the circumstances.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said he cares about what people think would help them feel safe. He suggested identifying the marginalized communities the committee hopes to speak to as well as which organizations they want to connect with.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said is vital to him that people have the power to give feedback to those who are "helping them" and alot of orgs and models lack this accountability in a concerning way, especially in those who proactively partner with the police.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido suggested doing a report back for the next meeting from each member about which organizations in Northampton they should reach out to to partner with including activists doing this work by themselves, and orgs in line not aligned with the pervasive system. He also suggested editing Carol's draft.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said there are other commissioners that are willing to do tasks when the committee is ready.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said hopefully there will be a document the committee will share with the commission and hopes after this meeting, the committee is reporting back about testimonies.

Commissioner Carol Owens wondered who will be following up with the issue of storage.

Commissioner Dan Cannity volunteered to work on storage.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido suggested asking participants what they need to feel safe.

Commissioner Dan Cannity said prefacing what the committee is doing is important.

Commissioner Carol Owens wondered whether to include information about the charge of the commission because the charge itself could be viewed as bias.

5. Adjourn

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:56pm. Commissioner Carol Owens seconded the motion. The motion to approve the meeting was passed unanimously.